

# **Soil Conservationist**

## **Position Announcement**

### **OVERVIEW**

The soil conservationist provides assistance to supervisors, co-workers, partnering agencies and landowners in Kansas. This employee is required to deliver technical services in both field environments and office settings while effectively communicating with working associates and the public. The soil conservationist performs these services as a contract employee of a county conservation district in support of Natural Resources Conservation Service programs.

The employee's fundamental mission is to promote conservation planning, practices management and compliance, and to provide conservation assistance through a variety of program support for which the Natural Resources Conservation Service has responsibility, as well as assisting the Kansas Department of Agriculture's Division of Conservation and local conservation districts with technical provisions of soil and water conservation programs, most notably federal farm bill and state cost-share programs. Four positions will be hired for placement in the Kansas cities of Cimarron, Emporia, Gove, and Seneca to perform duties in a local management unit area typically encompassing three to four counties.

### **SALARY AND PAY RANGE**

The soil conservationist position is started at an NRCS equivalent Grade 5 or Grade 7 rating depending on the level of background and experience of a qualifying candidate. The beginning salary of the Grade 5, Step 1 entry-level is \$35,265 plus a \$4,800 health insurance incentive. The beginning salary of the Grade 7, Step 1 entry-level is \$43,683 plus a \$4,800 health insurance incentive. The soil conservationist position is eligible to earn promotions to the Grade 9 level which has a beginning salary of \$53,433 plus a \$4,800 health insurance incentive.

### **REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS**

1. College level degree in biology, agriculture, natural resources, soil science or related disciplines
2. Ability to effectively interpret information in land use mapping, planning and design documents
3. Background and familiarity with agriculture or natural resources regarding conservation practices
4. Knowledge of applicable federal, state, and local programs regarding soil and water conservation

### **CONDITION OF EMPLOYMENT**

A prospective employee will be required to pass all applicable background checks requested by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. A prospective employee must also possess and maintain a valid Kansas motor vehicle operator's license within 60 days of the initial hire date.

### **APPLYING**

Positions will remain open until filled. Qualified candidates should send a resume, transcripts, cover letter and list of three most recent employers who can be contacted for references to [Steve.Frost@KS.Gov](mailto:Steve.Frost@KS.Gov). Applicants must reference their last name along with the phrase "Soil Conservationist" and the city location(s) for employment consideration in the subject line of the email (i.e. Smith – Soil Conservationist – Eureka).